

A Civilian Emerges as A Spy Hero

Reviewed by
Curtis Carroll Davis

Mr. Davis, of Baltimore, has made a study of clandestine intelligence techniques.

CPYRIGHT

THE MAN WHO SAVED LONDON. By George Martelli. Doubleday, 258 pp. \$4.50.

FORTUNATELY, there appears to be no end to sagas of brave men in World War II. They remain as an inspiration permanently on record. This latest example describes the clandestine career of a middle-aged French businessman and engineer who spontaneously organized his own intelligence net *rescued* in the latter half of 1941 and, without a single extraneous assist from outside the country, ran it dazzlingly until his betrayal by an informer in February, 1944.

Small in number, its personnel was fotted amid hotel employes, railwaymen, cafe proprietors and taxi drivers. Chapter XI could stand as a textbook example of how the jagged gleanings from such a *rescued*, dug up in the "field" side by side with those of other underground organizations, were known to the other, and led to-gether at a central head-quarters to produce a seamless and brilliant strategic intelligence estimate. The triumph of the *rescued* was the defeat and de-cription of the entire com-plex of the bomb sites before the first battle was ever launched against Eng-land.

Mr. Hollard, leader, came as the very proto-type hero to the to-ward and that he is such. He successfully negotiated the Swiss from times. After the ver-

mans grew disgusted and shipped him off to the Neuengamme extermination camp. Even that he survived, through luck and will power.

Promptly on his release, the British gave him their highest award for a for-foreigner, the D. S. O. In former Royal Navy officer Mar-telli's book—despite devised dialogue and poor documen-tation—he has received pos-sibly a more signal, certainly a more enduring, tribute.